

Interdisciplinary Position

Fish and Wildlife Biologist, GS-401-5

Fishery Biologist, GS-482-5

Wildlife Biologist, GS-486-5

Introduction

This is an interdisciplinary position. The employee serves as a Fish and Wildlife Biologist/Fishery Biologist/Wildlife Biologist in a Fish and Wildlife Services Ecological Services Field Office in Region 2. Representative, but not all inclusive duties of this position are illustrated by performance of any combination of the following:

Major Duties:

Collects basic data from field investigations of land and water development projects and makes observations in which biological conditions are readily identifiable. Reports observations in field notes for use of higher grade-level employees.

The employee conducts private land habitat restorations including landowner contacts, mapping, surveying, staking, construction monitoring, seeding, etc., and prepares management plans for restored areas.

Prepares graphs and charts.

Searches published technical sources for information on designated topics and prepares digests for reference of others in the unit.

Assists biologists of higher grade in studying and preparing reports on proposals of planning agencies, to recognize probable effects on fish and wildlife resources.

Receives cross-training in the interdisciplinary areas of biology to recognize the effects of development projects on fish and wildlife resources.

The employee performs data analysis and writes reports.

The employee prepares correspondence pertaining to technical aspects of the work.

Helps plan, organize, and implement biological work and/or habitat preservation and development work. Prepares reports on progress and completion of studies, uses data to formulate future programs and effect improvements in management practices.

Helps gather, organize and interpret biological, ecological, pathological, public use, or other pertinent information to insure management plans are current. Assists with implementation of management plans, studies, and investigations required for species propagation/production, resource protection, ecological factors, public information, and other aspects of natural resource management.

Provides assistance in carrying out programs to ensure good relations with local, state, and Federal agencies and communities and to inform and educate the general public with the goals of the program/field office of the Service.

Responds to written, telephone, and in-person inquiries from the public and the news media, obtaining and providing requested information within established guidelines of the office and in conformance with agency and Departmental policy.

Factors:

1. Knowledge Required by the Position:

Knowledge of the theory, principles and methods of fish and wildlife biology, fishery biology and/or wildlife biology and a working familiarity with related disciplines, such as would be obtained through a college major in the appropriate discipline or its equivalent, and additional professional work experience or professional education in the appropriate discipline, in order to determine the effects of land and water development projects on the fish and wildlife resources of an area.

Basic knowledge of agricultural and engineering terms, data, structures, facilities and procedures to be able to work with professionals and technicians in these fields, to recognize probable effects on the resources, to read and write reports, etc.

The employee needs to possess skill in presenting data and its analysis to write objective reports requiring a minimum of review and editing.

Skill in mathematics to perform data analysis is necessary.

Skill in operating small motorized watercraft.

Skill in operating motorized vehicles.

Knowledge and skill sufficient to deal with technical and/or administrative problems.

Knowledge in applying precedent, pertinent policies and procedures, and in modifying standard procedures and programs.

Skill in oral and written communications including ability to organize and present evaluations and findings to all levels of management, employees, the media, and the general public.

2. Supervisory Controls:

At this level, this is the beginning trainee developmental stage. The supervisor provides detailed instructions of work to be performed. Biologists of higher grade provide detailed instructions as to practices to be followed, outline objectives of each work operation, check the work closely during progress, and review completed work in detail. The employee is expected to perform independently those tasks which include simple and direct application of acquired learning. Problems previously encountered by the employee are resolved independently. Unusual problems are referred to the supervisor. As tasks recur, the employee performs them under greater independence and less controlled guidance from the supervisor.

3. Guidelines:

Detailed and directly applicable guidelines are available in the form of land and water development manuals, administrative manuals and policy memoranda. The employee must be capable of using judgment to select appropriate guidelines. Significant deviations are referred to the supervisor.

4. Complexity:

The work consists primarily of a variety of well-defined tasks in which the employee directly applies the principles and methods of wildlife and/or fishery biology to assist higher grade biologists in determining the impact of land and water development projects on fish and wildlife resources. Assignments are for training purposes and are characterized by standard problems, a limited number of variables, and clearly specified objectives. The factors to be considered vary with each assignment. Additionally, the employee must use judgment in selecting and interpreting guidelines.

5. Scope and Effect:

The purpose of the work is to perform simple research tasks involved in field investigations designed to determine the impact of land and water development projects on the environment. The work affects the efficiency of the unit and also may affect the activities of land and water development agencies.

6. Personal Contacts:

Contacts are with the supervisor, co-workers, and the public subject to the coaching of a biologist of higher grade.

7. Purpose of Contacts:

Contacts are to receive assignments and instructions, obtain or provide factual information, report on progress or problems, etc.

8. Physical Demands:

The work requires some physical exertion such as walking over wet, rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces; bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, or similar activities. The work requires average agility and dexterity.

9. Work Environment:

The work requires both office and outdoor work. The office is adequately lighted, heated, and ventilated. Temperature and weather extremes may be encountered in the performance of the outdoor work. The employee is expected to conduct duties in a safe and orderly manner so as not to endanger self, fellow workers, or property with which entrusted.

A condition of employment is the wearing of the official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service uniform in a manner prescribed in 3 AM 3 of the Administrative Manual. The employee is required to obtain and properly wear uniform components within Class _____ and _____.